

1948
On the Feast of Saint Francis!

10-4-48

Reverend and dear Father Aloysius!

I hardly know how to begin this letter. A most wonderful grace has come to me this morning. I was talking to a very holy Lady from Hollywood on the Telephone so naturally I mentioned our wonderful Guild; the one Father Aloysius started for us. Right away she said, she can imagine what sort of a Guild it was, since we had a Priest who carries the Most Blessed Sacrament on his breast, for a leader. I had always felt very near God when I was with you and wanted to love him so much more after you had talked to us. Now the good Lord in his great mercy has let me know this wonderful fact. I felt almost stunned and felt such great unworthiness come over me. I got down on my knees to thank the dear Lord for granting me this wonderful grace and especially too, for having called me to belong to your wonderful Guild. I only beg God that he will give me the further grace to be worthy of it all and to help me do his will in everything.

over!
please.

Like I mentioned above, I want to love God so much more since I heard your wonderful talks and also my devotion to Our Lady has increased tremendously since then. But I would like to tell you of the most wonderful experience I had: (I'm pretty sure it was on the evening of the First Friday last ^{week}) I was sick on that day and couldn't get to Mass and holy Communion; so naturally I was very unhappy; then during the day and especially in the evening I ~~tried~~ to make up for missing mass by some special prayers to the Sacred Heart (I have a wonderful prayerbook to the Sac. Heart) and like you taught us I tried very hard to think of the presence of God within me and around me. Then all of a sudden I experienced such great happiness - I felt the presence of God and felt also his holy Mother so close. It was most wonderful and I'm sure I owe all my advancement to the dear Lord yes, but indirectly to you.... Even my children notice a change in me when I come home from your talks.

SAINT PATRICK ACADEMY
MOMENCE, ILLINOIS

J.M.J.

October 9, 1948

Rev. Aloysius Ellacuria, C.M.F.,
Immaculate Heart Novitiate,
Los Angeles, California.

Rev. dear Father:

It seems such a long time since I have heard from you or since I have written to you. I have been wanting to write to you every since retreat closed but something or other seemed to keep me from it. You may have thought it strange that I did not write my usual letter before the close of retreat. There really was no reason for my not doing so other than that I did not seem able to bring myself to it. Why?? Perhaps the following will explain.

As I told you, my jubilee day of June 19th was truly a day of heaven. I felt your presence with me and I knew that you were praying for me. My summer was a very happy one. It was filled with many activities - arranging for summer school, our ten days of Canon Law and the Spiritual Life at Marquette, retreat, and preparations for the re-opening of school. During retreat, I spent the greater part of my free time typing the notes of the retreat for you. We had a very wonderful retreat master, Father Meinrad Hoffman, O.S.B., master of novices at St. Meinrad, Indiana. I felt that you would especially like his notes since he was a master of novices. I asked him for his notes and told him why I wanted them. He was kind enough to give them to me for you. I just finished the last two ~~sermons~~ ^{sermons} yesterday so I shall put them in order and mail them to you within the next few days.

I went to confession to Father Meinrad while he was in Momence. I also went during retreat. His conference on chastity, however, caused me some disturbance. A few other things were also on my mind ~~for~~ so before the close of the retreat, I returned to confession to speak to Father. He permitted me to say all that I had to say. Then, he gave me his opinion. It was what you would have said to me, more or less, about worry over trifles. Before I left the confessional, he said to me with much emphasis and severity: "It is not obedience that you need ... it is confidence." I cannot tell you what that did to me. It seemed a death knell to all that I had been striving for and working

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for during these past several years. I thought that I had gained some degree at least of confidence - now it seemed that our dear Lord, through Father, was telling me again that I did not trust Him. The retreat finished ... I continued my best to follow it faithfully and lovingly. Yet, I did not have any sensible devotion. The reproach of our dear Lord... lack of confidence ... kept forcing itself upon me. I could not formulate my retreat resolution, other than to renew my resolution of former years, of adoration of the Blessed Trinity, through surrender to the Father, confidence in the Son, and abandonment to the Holy Spirit. I renewed this with my whole heart and soul, and added the determination to do all through pure love of Him, and to practice mortification. As the days since retreat have come and gone, I seem to feel that all is wrong - yet it is hard to say in what. I go to the sacraments, I go through my spiritual exercises, and the duties of the day., to the best of my ability - yet in all, I seem to feel that all is wrong. Yet just what and where??

I have had some difficulty with my eyes again. Mother sent me in to see the oculist - and one eye was ulcerated. His treatment has helped it considerably. I also saw the physician who did not give me a good report. He said the story was the same as when I saw him before he sent me to Wedron. I am overworking-the heart cannot take it. He has ordered as much rest as I can possibly get. This condition may account in part for the spiritual condition. I am trying to confide all to Him and accept His Will with love and confidence.

We were very happy to receive the postulants you so kindly sent us. I met her on August 15 and she seems to very happy and most anxious to be permitted to remain with us. I regret so much that we could not send any one to California to take the mission in Long Beach. We hope that you will continue to send us postulants - we need them so badly.

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MOMENCE, ILLINOIS

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Things have not gone too well recently between Mother St. Eugene and myself. I have tried as I always have to help with the organization of the program, the work, etc. One of the Sisters had spoken to me of some difficulties. I went to Mother with a suggestion for remedying this - Mother reproached me with not minding my own business. Since this was not a school affair directly, I should have sent the Sister to her. Mother's reaction astonished me for there had been nothing on my part as far as intention had been concerned. I tried to talk to Mother but with no result. Finally I asked what she wished me to do. She told me to tell the Sister to go to her. I did so. However, there are many things now in which I would formerly have spoken to Mother and tried to help her. Yet the constant refrain - "~~That~~ That is not your business." The question resolves itself on what is my business and what is not. I have tried to be as natural with Mother as possible and to help in every way possible. Yet I cannot agree with her on this question and any attempt to try to adjust it only makes matters worse. Two other times also, something has come between us. Once she accused me of failing in obedience... and she will not listen to my side of the question. ~~It was not a lack of obedience, Father, and her saying so cannot make it so.~~ It was not a lack of obedience, Father, and her saying so cannot make it so. I cannot explain to her for a "black wall" seems to have arisen between us on affairs of mine. Am I wrong here? Another time, it seemed that in an instance where another Sister misunderstood and gave an answer she should not have done that I had again directly disobeyed. I went to Mother this time and told her. She gave me the consoling answer that there was not another Sister in the house who was more careful about asking permissions than I... I have told Rev. Mother Rose Mary of all - and she asked me to go back to Mother on a certain question - I did so.

I continue to pray for you constantly, Father. I am deeply grateful for all that you have done and are doing for me. I trust that I may hear from you soon. Begging your blessing and your prayers, I remain

Gratefully in Him

Sister Mary Dolores

May I please have your blessing on my retreat resolution?

(over)

I forgot to tell you that Father Moisant has been changed to Mitchell, South Dakota, where he is now chaplain of a hospital. I believe the change must have cost him much, particularly because of his dear father who is now over ninety years of age. However, Father has always been most generous and exact on the question of submission to authority so no matter what he may have felt, he was ready and happy to obey. He did not wish to say good-bye to anyone. I did not get to see him before he left.

It is difficult to have no one to talk to. Yet if this is what He wishes, I shall try to obey. I beg a memento in your prayers for Father Moisant.

Gratefully in Him

(over)

SISTERS OF THE HOLY CROSS
9536 SOUTH MILLARD AVENUE
CHICAGO 42, ILLINOIS

Oct. 17, 1948

Father Aloysius Ellacuria;

Dear Father,

For some time
I have written to
you in mind but
not on paper.

I am grateful my
Mass for Dad was
read by you. The
Bretz's were kind
to do that for me.

The enclosed is
for a Mass for
my brother. He
and his wife are
having trouble
staying together.

They have two
lovely children who
have been baptized

but never attended a
Catholic School. My
sister-in-law is a
convert and a lovely
girl, - but does not see
her obligations since
my brother is not
faithful. It is just
since the friction
occurred that he
stopped going to regular
Mass.

The second Mass
offering is to ask God's
blessing on my work.
I am a superior and
somehow, things are
not going as they
should. They are not
united as one as we
were last year - our
subject seems to be
discontented and I
don't know what
else to do to make

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CHICAGO 42, ILLINOIS

her happy. It seems
that she is influencing
some one else. I
know you will pray
for both intentions.
Thank you, kindly,
Sincerely in J. M. J.
Sister Mary Jane

Praised be Jesus and Mary!

Convent of Mercy
700 Webster Avenue
Pittsburgh, Penna.

10-19-48

Feast of St. Peter of Alcantara

Dear Father Aloysius, C. M. F.,

May I ask you to offer three Holy Masses in honor of the Most Adorable Heart of Jesus & two in honor of our dear Mother of Perpetual Help for Miss Antoinette McPoland, who is to have a cataract removed from her left eye, the first week of November, A. V.

I am deeply grateful for your helpful words of spiritual direction. My sister is securing for my use, a copy the book you so graciously recommended, "The Meaning of the Mass." I shall do all in my power to read & ponder its words & God willing, to put them into practice in my daily life, thus living the Holy Mass, which will help me to become an apostle of the Holy Mass, as you requested me.

^{I am most grateful for your} gracious permission to take ^{for my} the Divine Presence of Jesus in my poor soul & to whisper ten, twenty or more times, each morning, afternoon & evening, "You are there, my Eucharistic Lord in my poor, sinful heart. I love you!" On the other or negative side, I am striving earnestly not to yield to inevitability in words or actions in the classroom. I fail many times; I stumble & fall; yet, with our dearest Mother Mary's help, I strive to rise promptly, humble myself, asking my beloved Guest's pardon, make a short but fervent act of love & try again.

Rest assured that you & your dear, good Novices

are constantly in my poor prayers, labors and penances.

Deep gratitude from

Your poor, sinful child in the loving
Hearts of Jesus and Mary,

Sister Mary Annunciata, R.S.M.